

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT

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and Regular Police

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report concerning pre-revolt
organization, training and activities of the "Green" and "Blue" AVH and
the regular Hungarian police.

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

The Organization of the so-called "green" A.V.H.,
and the Police in Hungary.

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I. The Organization of the so-called "green" A.V.H..

[redacted] Sopron, where in the 1948 barracks (called after the building-year) between 1400 and 1500 recruits for the green A.V.H. were encamped. Besides these recruits there were between 300 and 400 trained soldiers doing frontier service. The barracks had the most up-to-date appointments, and only housed units of the green A.V.H.. In addition to this barracks [redacted] there are yet a large training centre of the green A.V.H. at Satoraljaiújhegy, 25X1 and smaller ones at Balasagy-Armat and Szerencs.

In Sopron [redacted] infantry training, thereafter a special training for frontier-guard. The latter training 25X1 included lessons in patrolling at the frontier, special attention being paid to concealing the patrols from the other side of the frontier. They also received lessons in footprint tracing, and the deductions to be made from footprints. The pupils were taught the methods used by Western agents for misleading the frontier-guards. The recruits had to take notes in the lessons in notebooks, which were collected and burnt after the training. The recruits had no lessons in the theory of foreign passports; there were according to subject special passport controllers serving in the trains, and at the frontier-stations. They were, however, taught the documents the Hungarian population had to carry. There were, so subject, four frontier-zones, viz.:

1. A 15 kilometre-zone;
any one staying in this zone had to be provided with a pass issued by the police permitting him to stay in that zone. Any non-resident of the zone, who wanted to visit relatives, had to apply for such a pass. Before the pass was issued inquiries were made in the zone as to whether the applicant actually had relatives residing there.
2. a 5 kilometre-zone;
a separate pass was required for this zone, issued by the authorities of the border towns.
3. a 500m.-zone;
the pass valid for entering this zone was issued by the local commander of the green A.V.H..
4. a 50m.- zone;
this zone was only accessible to people escorted by the green A.V.H. Any one found in this zone without the required escort, and

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trying to fly towards the frontier after being called, was simply to be shot; if he fled into the interior, the patrol was not required to shoot, but could act as circumstances required. 25X1

Such were the rules for using arms in the daytime. In the night the patrol had to shoot any one found in the 500m.-zone who after the first call did not stop.

[redacted] Zsira was the headquarters of the green AVH Staff stationed along the Austrian frontier. To this staff was attached a Russian officer who also wore the uniform of the Hungarian green A.V.H.. 25X1

Officers of the green A.V.H. at Zsira:

The undermentioned officers belonged to the frontier guard unit at Zsira [redacted] Lajos LAKATOS - lieutenant, and military commander; in the autumn of 1955 he was substituted by lieutenant Istvan TOMAN. Laszlo KUZEMKO - lieutenant, and political officer; in 1955 he was succeeded by Istvan BOZO. Sandor KISS - ensign. responsible for the further training of the personnel [redacted] 25X1

The Organization of the green A.V.H.

An autonomous detachment of the green A.V.H. comprises between 60 and 100 men, under the command of an officer (lieutenant or captain) who is assisted by a political commander, while an officer is attached to the detachment, responsible for instructions. A detachment is subdivided into smaller groups of 10 or 12 men under the command of an N.C.O.. A detachment guards a stretch of frontier of 7 kilometres.

Armament:

A detachment possesses 2 modern machine-guns of the GORJUNOW type, 1955 model, and two Russian machine-guns, Maxim model, with water-cooling; 12 machine-guns fitted with a barrel containing 47 cartridges, about 50 rifles and 30 machine pistols.

Transfer from the green to the blue A.V.H.:

Transfers from the green to the blue A.V.H. were occasionally made by superior orders. [redacted] 25X1

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Pay:

A conscript drafted with the green A.V.H. received 160 florints a month. The soldiers drafted with the ordinary army units only received 60 florints a month.

Revision.

Conscripts with the A.V.H. are called up for a three months' revision training after five years. By a fixed rule these people are not drafted again with the A.V.H., but with the infantry.

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Black List:

The patrols possess no list of persons under observation; this is kept by the commander.

Facilities for Agents illegally crossing the frontier.

It was of regular occurrence [redacted] that persons crossed the frontier with the consent of the Hungarian authorities outside the ordinary frontier-stations.

In such cases the patrols in that area received a description of the man, the time of his passing, and were ordered to let him pass unhindered. Sometimes the patrols were withdrawn during a certain time. The patrols were as a rule also warned when the agent returned from the West.

These agents, who were as a rule AVH officers, would sometimes stay one or two weeks with the green A.V.H. in the barracks, and reconnoitre the border [redacted] with the local commander.

[redacted] covering 7 kilometres of the frontier, once or twice a month an agent would thus go to Austria, and return in the same way after one or two months.

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The Organization of the so-called "blue" A.V.H.

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Particulars about the military service.

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[redacted] the drafting centre of the fifth district of Budapest. This centre, called Kiegészítő Parancsnokság, was established in the Varoshaz ut. 25X1

[redacted] the blue A.V.H. it was generally known that one received more pay, while the attendance was much better than with the ordinary army unit. After reporting [redacted] many [redacted] were taken by train to Szeged, and encamped in the AVH barracks. This barracks was popularly known as the "bluing factory"; twelve months ago agents from Yugoslavia had tried to blow up the building; the culprits had been arrested before they could execute their plans. 25X1

[redacted] there were about 2800 men encamped in the Szeged barracks, all of them in training. 25X1

[redacted] Besides the recruits' training Szeged also had a training for non-commissioned officers. 25X1

Barracks of the same kind and size were also to be found in Szombathely and Pecs; these were no training centres, they housed trained troops. At Szeged the recruits received a 24 months' infantry training. 25X1

[redacted] the blue A.V.H. is in particular responsible for keeping order, the further training was concentrated on this task. Thus they were taught the technique of suppressing riotous actions, tracing suspected persons, etc. The blue A.V.H. organization is divided as follows: 25X1
an autonomous detachment comprises between 400 and 500 men, consisting of:

- a. chauffeurs [redacted]
- b. motor-cyclists including pinion-riders and side-car riders - about 25 or 30 motorcycles with side-cars are attached to a detachment; the side-car is equipped with a machine-gun;
- c. a communication-section equipped with telephone and radio-transmitters;
- d. a group only armed with Russian carbines - this group comprises between 30 and 36 men, being sub-divided into smaller groups of 10 or 12 men; the group is under the command of an officer, the smaller groups under that of an N.O.C.;
- e. a machine-gun group armed with machine-guns of the Russian Maxim type. The division and command of this group is the same as of under d. The group has 10 or 12 machine-guns; each machine is operated by three men.
- f. A group of the same number of personnel and with the same division; every man of the group is armed with a machine-pistol of Russian make. The pistol has a barrel containing 72 cartridges.
- g. attending personnel.

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Operational Service.

[redacted] group was often employed for tracing suspected persons, when they had to throw a cordon round a village or a certain town-quarter, and, if necessary, had to search every house from cellar to loft. They were beforehand provided with the names of the persons wanted, if no names were known, they sometimes received photos.

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[redacted] The detachment was also used sometimes to help the green A.V.H.. The [redacted] detachment covered the whole of the province of VAS, of which Szombathely is the capital. In the actions they did not only arrest the persons wanted, but every one else who was found to have no identity-card. Persons who according to their identity-cards had for a long time been out of work were also arrested for examination.

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Besides the AVH troops in charge of maintaining order there were units for guarding. [redacted] the numerical strength of these groups depended [redacted] on the object to be guarded.

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Term of Service:

[redacted] The term of service with the infantry is two years, there are yet other arms with a longer term. It was not possible to be transferred from the green to the blue A.V.H. or vice versa by request; such transfers were sometimes made by superior orders.

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Revision Training:

Five years after leaving the service one was called up for three months' revision training. A remarkable feature herewith was, that no conscript who had served with the green or the blue A.V.H., was ever drafted with those units again for the annual training. They were then drafted with the infantry. The pay-book only mentions HONVED, not A.V.H..

Pay:

A conscript of the blue A.V.H. receives 170 florints a month, while an infantry soldier receives 20 florints a fortnight and some smoking material. The food with the A.V.H. was also far better than with the other army detachments.

Training:

It is [redacted] possible to be trained for N.C.O., i.e. which case one has to enter into a contract of service for a certain term, e.g. for 5 years.

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II.

The Organisation of the Police.

[redacted] the Municipal Police of Budapest [redacted] The appointment of [redacted] lower personnel was left to the Hungarian authorities. Though Hungary was at the time occupied by the Russians, the Hungarian communist party was not yet in power, so that membership of the communist party was not required for an appointment with the police. [redacted]

[redacted] In the police service, they, moreover, received some political training consisting in the reading and discussing of the "Rakosi-Per", dealing with the life of RAKOSI. RAKOSI, [redacted] whose real name was ROT. [redacted]

[redacted] bureau Chief commissioner of police in Budapest was in the period between 1954 and 1951 SOLYOMOSI, [redacted] who was arrested by the A.V.H. in 1951. [redacted] the reason of this arrest was to be found in the fact that a mine disaster had happened in the mining area of Pecs in 1951, which had cost a great many lives. The government gave out that the number of people killed was small, which statement SOLYOMOSI confuted by saying that the number of lost lives was much greater than the government made the public believe. On the ground of this statement SOLYOMOSI was discharged and arrested. This case was common knowledge in the police force in Budapest. As chief commissioner of police SOLYOMOSI was very popular with the personnel, by name he was a communist, not in fact. At the time about ten per cent. of the police force in Budapest was communist [redacted]

The National Organization of the Police.

The uniform of all police officials in Hungary is the same. The Chief of the national police has the rank of a general, and has his headquarters in the Ministry for the Interior. The police in the country is divided into districts, in other respects the organization is similar to the National Police Corps. The district commander is as a rule an officer with the rank of a major. Then there are the local police-stations, the personnel of which varies according to the size of the village. No members of the A.V.H. are attached to those small stations; they are, however, found in the district police stations. Political matters are therefore handled by the A.V.H. of the district police-stations. Further particulars furnished by source about uniforms, division, armament, and communications of the police.

In 1950 Budapest was yet divided into 14 districts. Beside the Central Police station each district had a district police-station.

Division of a District Police-station:

Personnel: about 200 men. Head of the district police-station was as a rule a lieutenant-colonel; between 30 and 40 detectives; about 10 AVH-men, including 2 officers. The police-station consisted of the following departments: criminal police (the nyomozo in Hungarian); street-patrol, and the department for registering arrivals and departures of the district-residents. The latter department consists for the greater part of administrative personnel. Every district police-station keeps an index of the residents of the district. All the residents of the district are under the obligation to report their removal both outside and inside the district. 25X1

Every inhabitant is provided with an identity-card, which he or she has to carry with him or her at all times. Any offence of this order is subject to a considerable fine, and imprisonment in case of a subsequent offence.

district police-stations were established in the following streets of Budapest: 25X1

District I - Pauler -u
District VI - Marsfa- u
District VII- O-u.
District VIII - Vig - u
District IX - Ferenc-ter.
District XIV- Thékólyi-u 14 t
District XIII-Dandar-u.

In addition to the district police-stations there are police-stations at three Budapest railway-stations, called the railway-police. This police section is responsible for guarding the railway, and keeping control at the stations.

Each police-station has about five fixed posts along the railway line; each station has a direct telephone communication with the central police-station. There is also a radio receiving plant for receiving police reports; these reports are broadcast at the following times; from 7 to 8 a.m. ; from 4 to 5 p.m. and from 11 to 12 p.m. 25X1

A person who is wanted by the police, and is found at the railway-station, is arrested by the railway-police, and at once handed over to the central police-station. The Hungarian names of the stations where such police-stations are to be found, are: Nyugati, Keleti, Pályaudvar, Déli pályaudvar. The personnel of such police-stations numbers about 100 men, including four officers, and about 20 N.C.O.'s; the stations are under the command of a major. 25X1

Uniform:

The ordinary police uniform is dark-blue; the difference between the railway-police and the ordinary police is that the railway-police wear a cap with a wide red band, while on the lapel of the uniform coat was a winged wheel.

The police are armed with guns and pistols, calibre; 9 and 7.65 mm. respectively. These arms are Hungarian make, and are supplied

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by an arms works in Budapest, called the DANVIA, Angol-u.

The A.V.H..

All political matters are handled by the A.V.H.. Political suspects are without exceptions transported to the political prison F8-u. In Budapest, called after the street in which the main entrance of the prison is situated. At the back of the building is another street; here is a small entrance through which the prisoners enter. This street is called Gyorskeesi-u., and the prison is popularly called after this street. The prison is situated near the Danube, and is connected with the river through a canal. It is a public secret, that the AVH victims are thrown into this canal, and thus disappear into the Danube. A special feature of this AVH prison is that it has an immensely deep cellar, where the cells are situated.

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